**Functions of the Academic Advisory Committee:**

(i) The advise the Sangathan about the academic and co-curricular programme to be introduced in Kendriya Vidyalayas;

(ii) To help prepare guidelines for the implementation of these programmes.

(iii) To review periodically these programmes and suggest measures for overcoming any shortfalls.

(iv) To help Kendriya Vidyalayas realize, among others, the following objectives of the Sangathan;

(a) To develop the Vidyalayas as "Schools of Excellence" in the context of the national goals of education.

(b) To initiate and provide experimentation in education in collaboration with other expert bodies like CBSE, NCERT, etc.

(c) To promote national integration.

(d) To review the publication programmes of the Sangathan and suggest improvements.

**Updating the university curricula**

2125. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the University Grants Commission has directed all universities to update the curricula of the courses offered by them by July, 2002;

(b) if so, whether a circular has been issued to universities, directing them to update syllabi of the courses offered, so that students are kept abreast with the latest developments in their subjects chosen; and

(c) whether seven of the 19 universities have been given permission for introducing astrology as a subject uptil now?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), 153 universities, registered under Section 2(f) and 12-B of the UGC Act, have been requested to update curricula in the identified subjects by

July, 2002. To facilitate the universities in this regard, UGC has circulated the model curricula to these universities. The universities have been requested either to adopt the same in toto or adopt it after making necessary amendments, whatever the universities may consider appropriate.

(c) The UGC had floated the Scheme for opening of Department of Jyotir Vigyan for voluntary acceptance. Out of the 20 universities selected for starting of the B.A./M.A./Ph.D course of Jyotir Vigyan, 18 universities have agreed to start the course.

**Number of Schools**

2126. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of children in the age group 6—14 in the country; State-wise;

(b) the total number of schools required for education of these children; and

(c) the total number of schools available presently in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA): (a) to (c) The estimated number of children in the year 2001 in the age group 6—14 years, based on population projection made by Registrar General of India on the 1991 census population, and the number of schools, based on Selected Educational Statistics 1999-2000 brought out by Ministry of Human Resource Development, is given below:—

| Sl. No | Name of the State/U.T. Admn. | No. of children (in thousands) 6—14 years | No. of schools |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | 14207 | 64928 |
| 2. | Arunachal Pradesh | 219 | 1617 |
| 3. | Assam | 5625 | 41255 |
| 4. | Bihar (unbifurcated) | 21578 | 67458 |
| 5. | Goa | 294 | 1137 |